



State of Utah
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
DIVISION OF WATER QUALITY



Michael O. Leavitt
Governor
Dianne R. Nielson, Ph.D.
Executive Director
Don A. Ostler, P.E.
Director

288 North 1460 West
P.O. Box 144870
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-4870
(801) 538-6146
(801) 538-6016 Fax
(801) 536-4414 T.D.D.

FILE COPY

February 4, 1993

Preston J. Truman, Director
Downwinders, Inc.
966 East Wilson Avenue
Salt Lake City, Utah 84105

RE: Comments on Proposed Disposal of
Vanadium Tailings by Molycorp. Inc.;
San Juan County, Utah

Dear Mr. Truman:

Thank you for your letter of January 21, 1993 commenting on the above noted proposed action. The issues you have raised are ones of overall public policy and are worthy of consideration. However, the administration of this kind of policy for the management and disposal of radioactive waste is within the Division of Radiation Control. Although in this specific individual instance we cannot see a significant impact to ground water quality, it is not this agency's intent to act contrary to public policy of other agencies. Accordingly, we have referred your comments to that Division and will delay any further action or decision on our part until the Division of Radiation Control has had an opportunity to address these issues. We also understand that further discussion will be undertaken by the Board of Radiation Control.

Please feel free to contact John Whitehead at 538-6146 if you have any questions on this letter.

Sincerely,

Don A. Ostler, P.E.
Director

DAO:JW:gt

cc: Larry Anderson, Div. Radiation Control
Gary Morris, Unocal

P:DWNWINDRS.LTR
FILE:UNOCAL; MOLYCORP.